ST. MARY'S TOWER, LICHFIELD.—COMPETITION.—I hope you will notice the doings of a committee appointed to carry out the restoration of St. Mary's Tower, Lichfield, which is intended to perpetuate the memory of the late vicar (the Rev. H. G. Lonsdale). Seven architects were invited to send designs for a tower restoration: three withdrew from the contest. The committee met by special notice "to decide on a plan," and that of Messrs. Johnson was selected. One of the designs had a spire, contrary to instructions furnished by the secretary, and was rejected very properly at this meeting; but an amateur architect, one of the committee, stuck to the spire, and from a small beginning (himself and another), after repeated adjournments, he contrived to make eight of the committee traitors to their former opinions, and at last succeeded in gaining a majority of one in a committee of twenty. This majority have usurped a power which was never intended by the parishioners, and, if I mistake not, their doings will very soon be undone.—FAIRPLAY.

NEW ECONOMY IN STEAM.—Patents have lately been taken out in nearly all the large states of Europe for a discovery which, if it realises only one-fourth of what the inventor promises, will cause a total revolution in the application of steam. The patentee, who is an American engineer of great celebrity, professes to have perfected an engine by which the steam, instead of passing off in a half-consumed state, deposits its caloric and recovers new power, thus effecting an economy of 90 per cent. The idea on which the invention is founded appears to have been borrowed from the respirator worn over the mouth, and in which the caloric of the breath is arrested by metallic meshes, and warms the cold air taken into the lungs.—*Galignani's Messenger.*

LIVERPOOL ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The annual excursion of this Society was made on Saturday week, when the members visited Shrewsbury by rail. The castle, the abbey and other churches, King Edward the Sixth's Free Grammar School, the celebrated quarry, Lord Hill's column, &c., were successively visited.

POISONING BY LEAD CISTERNS.—The *Liverpool Standard* says that "A very melancholy case of death, after long and painful illness, caused by drinking water kept in a lead cistern, has just occurred at Egremont. In this case the cause of illness was not even suspected until it was too late to apply a remedy. The water was then analyzed, and found to be strongly impregnated with poison from the cistern." The danger arising from certain qualities of water imbibing lead from cisterns we some time ago pointed out. It has been long held by the best chemists and toxicologists that the softer and more chemically pure the water, the greater the risk; but we do not well know what to say to recent allegations that the very contrary is the case,—that hard water has been found, at least, to act on lead more rapidly than soft. This is a question of far too serious import to be allowed to remain in so contradictory a position, and the sooner it is examined and decided one way or the other the better. It is very strange, when a purpose is to be served by a peculiar line of evidence, how readily it is got, whichever side it lean to. Here, however, the only excusable side to lean to is that of humanity.

OPENING UP OF ST. PAUL'S EASTWARD.—At a recent meeting of common council, a report of the City Lands Committee, "for authority to confer with her Majesty's Postmaster General and the Improvement Committee, in relation to the vacant ground at the west end of Cheapside," was unanimously agreed to. It is to be earnestly hoped that the final result of keeping this piece of ground vacant will be the entire removal of the pile of buildings between St. Paul's and the Post-office; and this the more so as two-thirds of the ground belong to the Post-office. Mr. R. L. Jones stated, in the council, that he knew the Government had it in contemplation to effect very important improvements in that neighbourhood; and every day renders the need of improvement more and more urgent in this abnormal throat of the metropolis.

TENDERS

For twenty-one houses, being the first contract for seventy-one houses proposed to be built in the parish of St. Mary's, Nottingham. Mr. T. C. Hine, architect.

	For twenty-one houses.	Estimate per house for thirty-four additional houses of similar description.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Lees	2,192 0 0	103 0 0
Ashton	2,781 0 0	131 0 0
Leverk and Co.	2,615 0 0	124 11 0
W. Dennett	2,583 0 0	123 0 0
Messrs. Dawsons	2,509 10 0	119 10 0
Baker	2,499 0 0	119 0 0
Speer and Co.	2,451 15 0	116 15 0
C. C. and A. Dennett.s	2,373 10 0	113 10 0
Powis	2,310 0 0	108 0 0
Whitworth	2,280 0 0	109 0 0
Neale and Wilson	2,280 0 0	109 0 0
Ferguson	2,228 10 0	106 11 3
Bradbury and Co.	2,052 15 0	97 0 0
Smith	2,020 14 0	96 4 8
Garland and Holland.	1,969 5 0	93 5 0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Three Years' Subscriber" (we do not think it "usual for architects to call upon the clerks to make up for holidays after the term of their articles has expired"). "ANDREW" (must not trust to such promises. Knowledge of a profession is not to be obtained so easily). "G. E." (thanks for the offer; we shall be glad to hear from him on his return). "A. B." (no). "Royal Academy." "J. C." (the advertisement appeared). "J. B." "T. L." (in type). "A Builder's Foreman." "G. G. S." (shall appear). "W. J." (too late for this week). "J. H." "Fidelis" (correspondents who desire attention, should forward their names). "J. G." (Gothic niches are rectilineal). "R. S." "A. G." "W. R. M." (we are unable to recommend a brush for the purpose). "N. G." "J. D." "G. W. B." "P. P." "W. R." "J. W. G." (whatever is submitted will have attention). "J. G. W." (declined with thanks). "R. E." "Novel Invention." "Mr. P." (the letter having previously appeared elsewhere, was ineligible). "J. W." "Mess-Master." "J. B. C." (the subject has been often treated of in our pages). "Non Nobis." "Rev. G. J. H." "A Fellow of Trin." "T. J."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE NEW SOCIETY of PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS will shortly CLOSE.—The SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of this Society is now OPEN at their Gallery, 53, Pall-mall, near St. James's Palace, from Nine o'clock till dusk.—Admission, 1s.
JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

ROYAL ACADEMY of ARTS, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE.—The EXHIBITION of the ROYAL ACADEMY is NOW OPEN.—Admission (from Eight o'Clock till Seven), One Shilling. Catalogue One Shilling.
J. P. KNIGHT, R.A., Sec.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE.—DIORAMA of the HOLY LAND, EGYPTIAN HALL.—In this great moved diorama is presented a most interesting view of the interior of the Mosque of Omar, standing on the side of the Temple of Solomon painted from a drawing made by Mr. Bonomi in 1833, and the only drawing of it that has ever been made. The diorama fully illustrates the peculiar architecture of Jerusalem.—Admission to 1s.; pit 1s. 6d.; stalls 2s. 6d. Daily at Three and Eight. Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

COLOSSEUM.—Change of Panoramas.—The original and extraordinary PANORAMA of LONDON, painted by Mr. Parris, will be EXHIBITED with the other splendid features of this Establishment, entirely re-embellished, daily from half-past Ten till Five. The grand PANORAMA of PARIS by NIGHT, by Danson and Son, from Seven till half-past Ten. The most admired music from Two till Five, and during the evening. The conservatories, saloons, &c., are brilliantly illuminated. Admission, day or evening, 1s.; children and schools half-price. CYCLORAMA, Albany-street, admission 1s. A grand moving Panorama of Lisbon and the Earthquake in 1755 is exhibited daily at One and Three and in the evening at half-past Seven and Nine o'clock. Illustrated by appropriate music on the new grand Apollonicon. Children and schools half-price.

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